



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009

Volume 59 Number 11

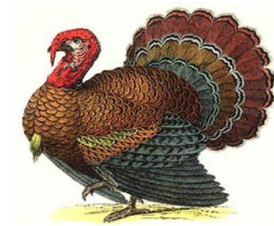
www.phil-mont.org

November 2009



Veteran's Day,

Thanksgiving,



Old Timer's Night *and* PMRC's 60th Anniversary Luncheon

November 5th is the deadline,
Send reservation & check to P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001 if
you haven't already!

Contact Ed, KB3IV with questions

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH <u>Submissions deadline:</u> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.	Directors: W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) N3MT (10) KB2ERL (10) KB3IV (10) NS3K (A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net
	<i>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</i> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	

Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ	DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM	Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU	TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBV Youth: N3MT
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Well now winter is almost upon us. Just one more holiday involving eating mass quantities and multiple football games to go. But seriously now fellow club members, there is an election afoot here in Phil-Mont land for new club officers. Please step up and help this fine group. There is also a 60th anniversary luncheon coming up and my reservation and payment has been in since the October general meeting. Finally, this being the beginning of winter driving season, I urge you to prepare your steeds for safe operation thru the snow and associated muck. Keep the fuel tank above half full and place emergency items for winter in the vehicle. Don't get caught stranded. Have that battery checked and go over all power and rf (antenna) connections to make sure it will work when you need it. It would be pretty bad for a member of a MOBILE RADIO CLUB to be caught short. C u at the meeting.

de Steve, WU3I



*The fourth Thursday is a holiday this month.
The next VE evening session is on the third
Thursday, November 19th.*

*The last session saw two candidates obtain their
Extra tickets.*

Many thanks to our VE team!

***November Birthdays***

05 Al Tribble - W3STW

12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX

14 Bill Nichelson - W3KOC

15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)

17 Jeff Bishop – KB3QMT*

19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH

20 Bob Gargano - N3YGY

22 Bill Popovic - W3AOK

23 Ted Hassell – KB3HAQ

24 Samuel Leidy - KF3G*

Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)

27 Mel Toren - N2MT

29 Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL

Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

**New Member 2009*

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

90 Full Paid Members

9 Family Members

4 Youth Members

2 Honorary Members

1 Pending Members

E-MAIL CHANGE

KC2HX & N2CYA-
asadwin11@verizon.net

From the Secretary ...**PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes October 7th, 2009**

Club president, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 2010 hours, at the offices of WRDV-FM, Hatboro.

W3RM, treasurer, presented a written report of club income, disbursements and balances for September. After review, the treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Upon motion, the membership application of Paul Eberwine, KB3SYX, was approved by unanimous vote, and Paul was admitted as a new Youth Member.

Gene, N3XKE, membership chairman, presented a design for the W3AA/60 QSL card, which was approved by the board. Al, W3STW, agreed to seek a price quote for printing and delivery.

Ed, KB3IV, Anniversary Luncheon chair, outlined a program and menu selections, announcement logistics, and costs, for discussion by the directors. It was agreed that the club would partially offset the food costs, so that tickets could be offered at \$25 each. Arrangement were made to get announcements in the mail to each member ASAP.

In the absence of W3AOK, Steve reported that repairs to the repeater system, caused by lightning damage, had been completed. Both repeaters are now operating normally. There remains some painting to be done at the repeater building, weather permitting. (Volunteers contact W3AOK) New backup repeater equipment, the purchase of which was authorized by the board at the September meeting, will be delivered shortly.

In preparation for the annual elections in December, Steve appointed Dick, W3RM, as nominating committee chair, with the assistance of W3STW. Dick will solicit willing candidates at the upcoming general meetings, with a slate to be announced at the November meeting, as required by the Rules of Election.

There being no further business, upon motion the meeting was adjourned at 2114 hours.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes October 14th, 2009

Club president Steve, WU3I, called the General Meeting to order at 1950 hours, and welcomed members and visitors.

Treasurer, W3RM, reported that all authorized payments for repeater repairs, insurance, and other regular expenses had been disbursed, and that our finances remain in good order.

As nominating committee chair, Dick solicited interested members to become candidates for office at the upcoming annual election in December. The offices of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, plus three director slots, will be up for election/re-election.

As Scholarship Committee chair, W3RM announced that the 2009 Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Robert Paul Hoops, W3EGL, of Watsontown, PA.

Complete information appears in the October issue of *The Blurb*. Dick solicited contributions to the Phil-Mont Scholarship Fund, in the form of cash and/or saleable amateur equipment, to underwrite future scholarship grants.

Ed, KB3IV, asked that members not procrastinate if they wish to attend the Club's 60th. Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday, November 14. The luncheon will be held at the Ann's Choice Retirement Campus, in Warminster, PA, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Reservations, with payment, must be sent to the treasurer by Thursday, November 5th.

W3AOK, repeater committee chair, reported that the repeater building still needs a coat of paint, hopefully before winter. After repairs to the controller, damaged by a lightning strike, the repeater system, on both bands, is back in normal operation. The northern off-site repeater input still needs a new location in Bucks County. Contact Bill with any suggestions.

Gene, N3XKE, membership chair, announced the approval by the directors of the membership application of Paul Eberwine, KB3SYX, as a new Youth Member. W3RM introduced visitors Fred Uebelhoer, KA3IRJ, and his xyl, Penny. Fred has submitted an application for membership to be considered by the board at their November meeting.

The program for the evening featured a film presentation, secured by program chair N3QV, on the construction of Thermionic Valves (radio vacuum tubes). For the enlightenment of newer hams, W3RM brought along a display of vacuum tubes, ranging from tiny "acorn tubes" dating from the WW-2 era, to large RF transmitting tubes, such as the 3-500Z tube, rated at a kilowatt each, used in many modern amateur amplifiers.

de Al, W3STW

New member application:

Fred J. Uebelhoer, Jr. - KA3IRJ
 1108 Berwyck Court
 Sicklerville, NJ 08081
 Phone: Home: 856-374-9622
 Work: 610-768-8922
 License Class: General (Expires 11/5/2016)
 DOB: 08/05/1959
 Occupation: CEO, KSE Corp.
 Email: fred@ksecorp.com
 Spouse's Name: Penny DOB: 09/28/1961

SK- W3KG

Prior to his declining health John had been a long time Phil-Mont member

Jonathan B. Balch, 68, of Norristown, Montgomery County, an electronics company manager, died Oct. 6 at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown. He was born in Philadelphia. Mr. Balch was a manager for World Electronics. An avid amateur radio operator, he used the call letters W3KG. Mr. Balch was a Masonic lodge member in the Broomall section of Marple. He enjoyed boating on the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Balch was the widower of Marguerite "Peggy" Balch and Margaret "Peg" Balch. He was the son of the late Frederic S. and Jane Ross Balch and the brother of the late Holly Ruckstahl. Survivors: Daughter, Lisa Fetter; son, Owen R. Balch, Timothy J. Balch; brother, Frederic "Fritz" S. Balch; 10 grandchildren.

Contributions: American Diabetes Association, One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 520, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

AMELIA EARHART – Part One

What if she had been a ham?



Amelia Earhart was a foremost American icon of the 'twenties and 'thirties. She was a tomboy as a youngster, a lifestyle that convinced her there was nothing a man could do that couldn't also be done as well or better by a woman. She became an advocate for women's rights and, with her short-cropped hair and sporty dress, created a fashion widely adopted by young women of the era eager to express their own self-determination.

Flying became Amelia's passion following a short ride with a barnstormer in 1920. She qualified for a pilot's license after six months of lessons, bought a used biplane and proceeded to fly it to 14,000 feet for the first world altitude record by a woman pilot! Other accomplishments followed in quick order: First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic; Altitude record in a Pitcairn autogiro; Air race competitor; Aeronautics Editor of *Cosmopolitan*; and regular newspaper columnist popularizing commercial air travel.

Despite her impressive credentials, A.E. was regarded by leading aviators as a below-average pilot, but that didn't deter her from setting sights on the Ultimate Adventure – a flight around the world. This would be no wimpy Northern Hemisphere flight; it would be the hard way around the equator, with long segments over open water, unstable weather, and poor equatorial radio propagation. A key figure in that undertaking would be her husband, George Putnam, who enthusiastically

obtained influential sponsors, raised funds and directed high profile publicity.

Amelia was befriended by Eleanor Roosevelt, who shared many of her views and championed her cause within the labyrinth of the Federal Government after FDR's 1932 election. The State Department negotiated landing credentials with governments of stopover countries on the trans-global flight, and the government funded construction of special runways on Howland Island, a refueling point between Indonesia and Hawaii. Additionally, executive "persuasion" was applied to the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and Bureau of Air Commerce (FAA of the day) to assist Earhart.

Purdue University provided a Lockheed Electra for the flight. The Electra was a twin-engine transport widely used in commercial aviation, but Model 10-E was extensively modified by removal of cabin windows and seats. Nearly the entire cabin was occupied by fuel tanks, leaving only a small passageway in the center for crew to crawl on hands and knees to the rear of the plane to the navigator's plotting table and latrine.

A change in leadership at the Bureau of Commerce eroded government support for Amelia's mission just as it was about to commence. Days before scheduled departure from Oakland for Hawaii, she was notified by the new chief of the Air Commerce Bureau that she had failed to renew the instrument rating section of her transport license and could not proceed until she had been recertified. A three part test was required, consisting of a written examination, a flight test flying blind with instruments, and *demonstration of proficiency in use of radio navigation*. The regulators eventually relented somewhat and allowed her to recertify by taking only the flight test. With that technicality out of the way, the epic flight was ready to begin, however, as we shall see later, she received no favor by elimination of the radio navigation element!

The Electra had a crew of four when it took off from Oakland for the start of its trans-global marathon. Amelia Earhart was pilot. Harry Manning was scheduled to be navigator on the first three long over-water segments to Hawaii and New Guinea. Manning was a private pilot and an amateur radio enthusiast with extensive experience

as a shipboard navigator, having served at sea for years as a ship captain in the Navy. There was some concern, however, that he might have difficulty coping with the rapidly changing conditions in flight, so a second navigator, Fred Noonan, was added to the team. Noonan was former ace Pan American Airways navigator, a key figure in planning PanAm's Clipper routes to the Orient and South Pacific. He had recently left the company with a sterling reputation as a celestial navigator. The fourth member of the team was Paul Mantz, the country's most competent aviator, brought on board as technical advisor.

The Electra lifted its four occupants from the Oakland airport at 4:37 PM March 17, 1937 for the 2410 mile flight to Hawaii. PanAm ground stations used Adcock direction finders to make position measurements from the plane's transmissions on 3105 kc, returning the information to Manning by CW on 2986 kc. Additional guidance was obtained as they neared Hawaii using the plane's DF loop to home on a beacon at 290 kc. With radio navigation aids supplementing Noonan's dead reckoning, the plane landed safely at the Army's Wheeler field the next morning.

Mantz discovered improper lubrication had caused damage to prop pitch gears, requiring repairs that delayed onward flight to Howland Island as originally scheduled for later in the day. After prop hub repairs were completed several days later, Mantz gave the plane a rigorous flight check, then landed at Luke Field, Pearl Harbor, where a 3000 foot paved runway would be ideal for subsequent takeoff by the heavily loaded Electra on the next leg of the trip.

Takeoff from Luke for Howland Island was initiated at 5:30 AM on April 20. Amelia ran up the engines of the Electra. Manning and Noonan were in their places at the rear of the aircraft. The plane rolled down the smooth runway for 1200 feet, but then veered to the left in an uncontrolled ground loop (like to an automobile spinout), collapsing its landing gear before coming to an abrupt stop. No one was injured and the engines did not sustain damage, but both propellers were mangled and the airframe was severely damaged. An Army investigating board was unable to determine the

exact cause of the crash, although many, including Paul Mantz, seemed to attribute it to pilot error.

Plans for the world flight had come to an ignominious end, at least temporarily, while the Electra was returned to Lockheed for extensive repairs. Paul Mantz, who was scheduled to leave the team anyway, went on to other ventures, and Captain Manning returned to active duty in the Navy. (He later had a distinguished war record and became the first captain of the *USS United States*.) Putnam mortgaged his house to finance repairs and Earhart contributed a considerable sum of her own money. Her resolve did not suffer, however! Three months later the Electra was repaired and ready once again for an epic journey in which radio communications were to play a pivotal role. That will be our topic next month.



Mantz, Earhart, Manning & Noonan

NRA Special Event Station - K7NRA

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, Prescott, AZ, will operate a special event operation on Nov. 17, 2009, to celebrate the NRA's 138th birthday. The operation will take place from 1500 – 2300 UTC on the following frequencies: 7.250, 14.250, 21.335. To obtain a certificate for a contact, send a 9" x 12" SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to:

Michael Campbell, K7NRA
404 Lampliter Village
Clarkdale, AZ 86324

It's Election Time Again

The business of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. is conducted by its eleven officers and directors, elected each December by the members. The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer serve for one-year terms; six of the directors are elected to two-year terms, three positions expiring each year; and the remaining director is appointed for a one-year term by the incoming president. The Rules of Election provide that a slate of candidates be announced at the November general meeting, with the election conducted at the December general meeting. Absentee voting by members in good standing is permitted.

As nominations chair, I respectfully solicit candidates (Members in good standing for at least one year) to run for office, as an officer or board member. Please call me if you are willing to be a candidate (or I may call you!). I will be glad to discuss the responsibilities involved, or answer any questions you may have. My contact information is available in the Blurb and membership list.

de Dick, W3RM, Nominations Chair

Scholarship update

In October's Blurb you read about 17-year-old Robert Paul Hoops, W3EGL, the winner of Phil-Mont's 2009 Haring Scholarship grant. Here's an early update, as I received a telephone call this week from Paul's dad, Bill Hoops, K3WJH. As you know, Paul just entered his freshman year at Rochester Institute of Technology, two months ago, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Bill reports that Paul has already become heavily involved in RIT's Amateur Radio Club, K2GXT. Want proof? Open to page 13 of the November issue of QST magazine...there's Paul, posing with RIT's Mascot, "Ritchie the Tiger," at the school's Fall Club Fair.

Lest you fear Paul may be avoiding his class work, please know that he's already in the Freshman Honors Program, and he aced his first mid-term exams...All A's....Great work, Paul. Congratulations.

de Dick, W3RM

November at PMRC...

- 1st Sunday - W3STW NCS
 Daylight Saving Time Ends
 4th Wed - Board of Directors meeting
 8th Sunday - N3OWM NCS
 11th Wed - General Membership Meeting,
 Old Timer's Night
 Veteran's Day
 15th Sunday - KB3IV NCS
 19th Thursday VE session
 22nd Sunday - K3XS NCS
 26th Thanksgiving Day
 29th Sunday - N3QV NCS

And don't forget the **ARES** net every
 Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater.
 Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from ***you!***

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For Sale:

Double Braided Dacron Dipole Rope now in stock. 3/16 diameter. Black in color. Will cut to requested length. High stretch resistance. Strength: Excellent, Resistance to abrasion: Excellent, Resistance to chemicals: Very good, Acids: Good. Sunlight resistance: Excellent, Shock load: Excellent. Does not float. Seal ends with heat. Resistant to mildew. Breaking strength 630 Pounds. \$0.14 per foot

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member.

Stop by 28.480 any night at 2000L and meet Kurt, NN3C and other local 10M enthusiasts.

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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